

Department of Public Health
and Human Services

Section:
NONFINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (SNAP)

Subject:
EXPANDED CATEGORICAL
ELIGIBILITY (ECE)

Supersedes: NEW TO MANUAL

References: 7 CFR 273.2(j); 7 CFR 273.8(e)

GENERAL RULE -- TANF Information and Referral (I & R) Services is a TANF funded brochure with information and referrals to other various agencies, programs, organizations, and community resources that can benefit the entire household. The Office of Public Assistance (OPA) provides all households with the brochure. By receiving the brochure the household is considered to be receiving a TANF service and may be eligible for expanded categorical eligibility (ECE). This includes elderly, disabled, and childless individuals because the brochure is designed to educate and serve all individuals in the community who want to use the services.

**EXPANDED
CATEGORICALLY
ELIGIBLE**

Expanded categorically eligible households must pass a gross income test of 185% of the federal poverty level (SNAP 001) and a net income test of 100% of the federal poverty level (SNAP 001). Households with an elderly or disabled member do not have a gross income test.

Resources for expanded categorically eligible individuals and households are excluded.

Expanded categorically eligible households with three or more members passing the gross monthly income (GMI) and net monthly income (NMI) tests but who are not eligible for a benefit amount are denied or closed. All eligible one and two person households are entitled to the minimum \$14 allotment.

EXCEPTION: If due to proration during the initial month the benefit is less than \$10, no benefit is issued for the initial month.

Households who are not expanded categorically eligible must pass the GMI test of 130% of poverty and 100% net test.

**EXPANDED
CATEGORICALLY
ELIGIBLE
WITH INELIGIBLE
HOUSEHOLD
MEMBERS**

Households with the following ineligible household members are expanded categorically eligible:

1. Ineligible students; coded 'OU' on FS SEPA;
2. Ineligible aliens; coded 'DS' on FS SEPA;

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3. Ineligible able-bodied adult without dependents code 'DS' on FS SEPA;
4. Ineligible due to failing or opting not to provide a social security number; coded 'DS' on FS SEPA and;
5. Ineligible due to work registration disqualification (not signing the HCS-543A, Work Registration form or job termination without good cause); coded 'DQ' with 'WR' as disqualification reason.

**HOUSEHOLDS NOT
EXPANDED
CATEGORICALLY
ELIGIBLE**

The following households are not expanded categorically eligible:

1. The entire household residing in an institution.
2. The entire household is disqualified from SNAP.
3. A member is disqualified for any of the following reasons:
 - a. intentional program violation;
 - b. fleeing felon or probation/parole violation;
 - c. convicted of receiving duplicate benefits;
 - d. convicted of trading benefits for weapons, ammunition, explosives, or drugs;
 - e. convicted of buying or selling benefits of \$500 or more; or,
 - f. convicted after 08/22/96 of a federal or state felony for possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs.

NOTE: A household who has a member with the following participation codes on FS SEPA is not ECE and his/her resources are countable, and the household must pass the GMI test of 130% and NMI test of 100% of poverty:

1. 'DF' with any disqualification reason code;
2. 'DQ' with disqualification reason codes; 'DR'; 'FF'; or 'OT'.

The remaining household members with the following participation codes and their resources are excluded: 'IN'; 'SH'; 'DS'; and, 'DQ' with disqualification reason code 'WR'.

EXPANDED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY CHART		
SNAP Participation Code (SEPA Screen)	Expanded Categorical Eligible (ECE)	
	Yes	No
IN	X	
OU	X	
SH	X	
DS (with any DQ reason)	X	
DQ/WR	X	
DF/IF		X
DQ/FF		X
DQ/DR		X
DQ/OT		X